BROKEN PINS DETERMINE DIE CONFIGUTATION
Part 4 – 1 x 2 Dies

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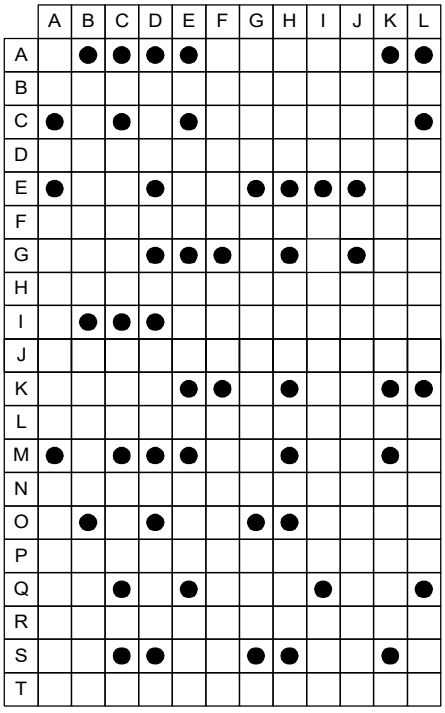
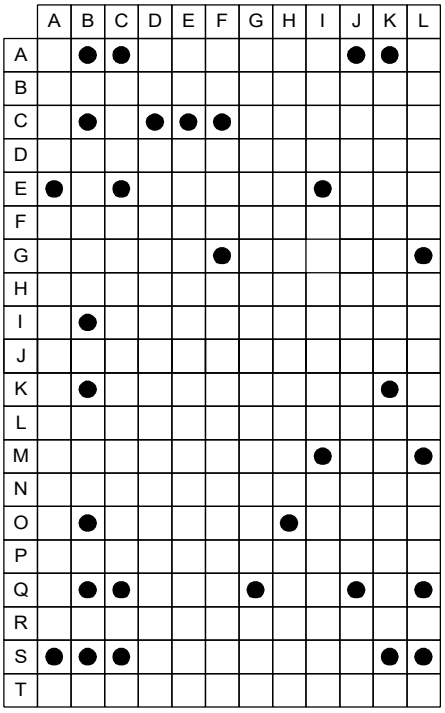
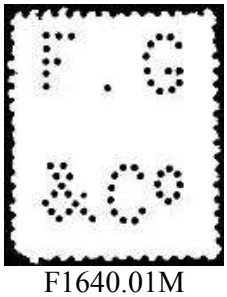
In the previous parts to this study I covered 6 x 1, 4 x 1 and 3 x 1 die configurations (see Bulletins 340/6 339/23 338/25. In this last part I will cover 1 x 2 dies. The first die that Sloper constructed after getting approval for his system was a 1 x 2 die GH/WCo - G2410.01M. Using broken pins I have managed to identify just five 1 x 2 dies – C0960.04M, F1640.01M, G2340.02M, J3085.01M, and S5840.01M.



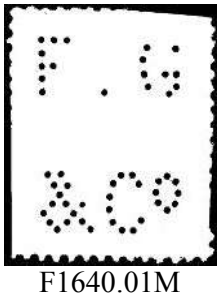




F1640.01M

1d Plates Reported
117, 120, 121, 124, 129, 130, 135, 137, 139, 140, 144, 147, 148, 149, 159, 161, 162, 169, 173, 175, 183

State 1 broken pin "&" only in odd rows



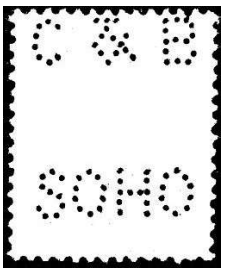
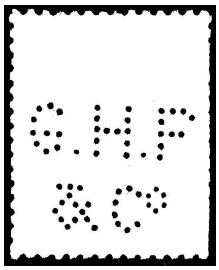
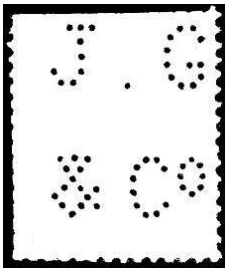
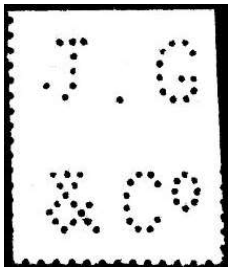
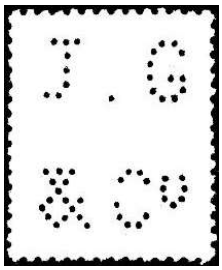
F1640.01M

1d Plates Reported
140, 148, 171, 175, 176, 180, 185, 187, 191, 192, 195, 200, 216

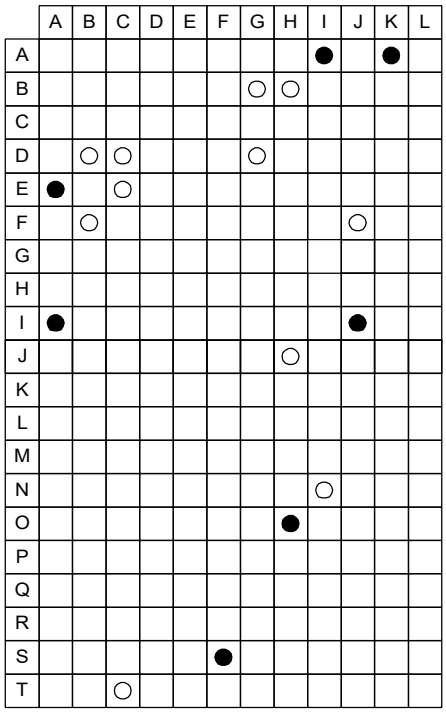
State 2 broken pins "&" and "G" only in odd rows

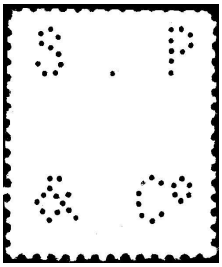
Above are shown two broken pin varieties that have been found on F.G/&Co - F1640.01M. The first shows a broken pin on the top bar of the ampersand, which then at a later date progresses with additional breaks in the "G".

As can be seen from the table many copies of these varieties have been found and they all appear in the odd rows – none have been found in the even rows. And as copies have been found in all of the columns the die must have a 1 x 2 configuration. Similar breaks have been found on C0960.04M, G2340.02M and J3085.01M and the table below shows the details of these dies.

 C0960.04M	1d Plates Reported 100, 102, 105, 111, 113, 122, 124, 135, 135, 136, 141, 145 Broken Pin "B" only in odd rows
 G2340.02M	1d Plates Reported 134, 171, 173, 182, 184, 187, 190, 196, 197, 209 Broken Pin "P" in even rows only
 J3085.01M	1d Plates Reported 124, 137, 140, 149, 155, 167, 173, 175, 181, 191 Broken Pin "&" in odd rows only
 J3085.01M	1d Plates Reported 122, 137, 140, 146, 167, 174, 175 181 Broken pin "J" in even rows only
 J3085.01M	1d Plates Reported 171, 183, 184, 189, 191, 202, 210, 215 Broken Pin "J", "C", "o" in even rows only

When looking at S.P/&Co - S5840.01M though, we find an interesting feature. The die has a broken pin – again in the upper bar of the ampersand. For any member who has a number of copies of this die the thing that will strike you is that half the copies have an inverted strike of the perfin. Examination of the incidence of this broken pin shows why. It appears that whoever was in the mailroom had been given strict instruction to tear a strip of two rows from the sheet, fold it in half and then carry out the perfin strike. So we end up with the broken pin variety being found upright on the odd rows and inverted in the even rows.





S5840.01M

1d Plates Reported

146, 171, 177, 179, 181, 185, 186, 187, 190, 192, 194, 195, 199, 200, 201, 205

Broken pin "&" - normal in odd rows, inverted and reversed in even rows.

The study work that has been carried out so far by **Roy Gault** and myself in determining die configuration has only scratched the surface of a very large iceberg (apologies for the mixed metaphor). The work to date has raised more questions than answers. Question such as:

1. When did Sloper start using 12 x 1 dies?
2. Are there other die configurations such as 2 x 2, 3 x 2 etc?
3. What sort of die configuration was used for perfinning bantams – surely 1 x 2 dies couldn't be used for sheets of 480 stamps?
4. What sort of die configurations were used by Sloper's rivals – Braham and Alchin?
5. What are the most common configurations used by Sloper and for sale to his customers in the early period?

To answer these questions will take time, material and perseverance using all the tools in our arsenal - broken pins, large blocks and minor variations in the die positions.